REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 and 19-61 are presently active in this case.

Claims 1-17 and 46-61 were indicated as being allowed. Additionally, Claims 21-23, 25-31, 33, 39-41, and 43-45 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 19, 20, 24, 32, 34-38, and 42 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-10 of Katayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,535) in view of Janssen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,444).

Submitted concurrently herewith is a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) relating to U.S. Patent No. 6,529,535 upon which the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is based. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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